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UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 005340

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/UNP-HOTZ AND WHA/CAR-SEARBY

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANTI-ISRAEL BODIES AT THE UN: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
RESPONSE

REF: STATE 220462

1. Embassy on December 7 delivered reftel talking points to MFA UN director Michelle Cohen, emphasizing U.S. disappointment over the Dominican Republic's change of its vote from "abstain" in previous years to "yes" on the resolution regarding the Division for Palestinian Rights. Political officer also stressed the urgency of considering the Dominican position for the scheduled December 8 vote on the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, and urged the MFA to instruct the Dominican mission in New York to vote "no."

2. Cohen requested a copy of the draft resolution, which IO/UNP provided via fax (Embassy's thanks to Raymond Hotz for his quick response). She undertook to study our request and the resolution and seek an MFA decision before the vote. Embassy was unable to confirm the outcome.

3. Cohen told us she had been "surprised" by the Dominican "yes" vote on the Division for Palestinian Rights. She did not know at what level the decision had been taken.

HERTELL